

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By _____

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 225, Page 1, Section A, Line 2, by
2 inserting immediately after said line the following:

3 "160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the department of elementary and
4 secondary education the "A+ Schools Program" to be administered by the commissioner of
5 education. The program shall consist of grant awards made to public secondary schools that
6 demonstrate a commitment to ensure that:

7 (1) All students be graduated from school;

8 (2) All students complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for which
9 there are identified learning expectations; and

10 (3) All students proceed from high school graduation to a college or postsecondary
11 vocational or technical school or high-wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

12 2. The state board of education shall promulgate rules and regulations for the approval of
13 grants made under the program to schools that:

14 (1) Establish measurable districtwide performance standards for the goals of the program
15 outlined in subsection 1 of this section; and

16 (2) Specify the knowledge, skills and competencies, in measurable terms, that students must
17 demonstrate to successfully complete any individual course offered by the school, and any course of
18 studies which will qualify a student for graduation from the school; and

19 (3) Do not offer a general track of courses that, upon completion, can lead to a high school
20 diploma; and

21 (4) Require rigorous coursework with standards of competency in basic academic subjects
22 for students pursuing vocational and technical education as prescribed by rule and regulation of the
23 state board of education; and

24 (5) Have a partnership plan developed in cooperation and with the advice of local business
25 persons, labor leaders, parents, and representatives of college and postsecondary vocational and
26 technical school representatives, with the plan then approved by the local board of education. The
27 plan shall specify a mechanism to receive information on an annual basis from those who developed
28 the plan in addition to senior citizens, community leaders, and teachers to update the plan in order to
29 best meet the goals of the program as provided in subsection 1 of this section. Further, the plan shall
30 detail the procedures used in the school to identify students that may drop out of school and the
31 intervention services to be used to meet the needs of such students. The plan shall outline
32 counseling and mentoring services provided to students who will enter the work force upon
33 graduation from high school, address apprenticeship and intern programs, and shall contain
34 procedures for the recruitment of volunteers from the community of the school to serve in schools
35 receiving program grants.

36 3. Any nonpublic school in this state may apply to the state board of education for

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1 certification that it meets the requirements of this section subject to the same criteria as public high
2 schools. Every nonpublic school that applies and has met the requirements of this section shall have
3 its students eligible for reimbursement of postsecondary education under subsection 8 of this section
4 on an equal basis to students who graduate from public schools that meet the requirements of this
5 section. Any nonpublic school that applies shall not be eligible for any grants under this section.
6 Students of certified nonpublic schools shall be eligible for reimbursement of postsecondary
7 education under subsection 8 of this section so long as they meet the other requirements of such
8 subsection. For purposes of subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section, the nonpublic school
9 shall be included in the partnership plan developed by the public school district in which the
10 nonpublic school is located. For purposes of subdivision (1) of subsection 2 of this section, the
11 nonpublic school shall establish measurable performance standards for the goals of the program for
12 every school and grade level over which the nonpublic school maintains control.

13 4. A school district may participate in the program irrespective of its accreditation
14 classification by the state board of education, provided it meets all other requirements.

15 5. By rule and regulation, the state board of education may determine a local school district
16 variable fund match requirement in order for a school or schools in the district to receive a grant
17 under the program. However, no school in any district shall receive a grant under the program
18 unless the district designates a salaried employee to serve as the program coordinator, with the
19 district assuming a minimum of one-half the cost of the salary and other benefits provided to the
20 coordinator. Further, no school in any district shall receive a grant under the program unless the
21 district makes available facilities and services for adult literacy training as specified by rule of the
22 state board of education.

23 6. For any school that meets the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by
24 this section and specified in subsection 2 of this section for three successive school years, by August
25 first following the third such school year, the commissioner of education shall present a plan to the
26 superintendent of the school district in which such school is located for the waiver of rules and
27 regulations to promote flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance and encourage
28 efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in the school. The provisions of other law to the
29 contrary notwithstanding, the plan presented to the superintendent shall provide a summary waiver,
30 with no conditions, for the pupil testing requirements pursuant to section 160.257 in the school.
31 Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan shall detail a means for
32 the waiver of requirements otherwise imposed on the school related to the authority of the state
33 board of education to classify school districts pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 161.092 and
34 such other rules and regulations as determined by the commissioner of education, except such
35 waivers shall be confined to the school and not other schools in the school district unless such other
36 schools meet the requirements of this subsection. However, any waiver provided to any school as
37 outlined in this subsection shall be void on June thirtieth of any school year in which the school fails
38 to meet the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by this section as specified in
39 subsection 2 of this section.

40 7. For any school year, grants authorized by subsections 1, 2, and 5 of this section shall be
41 funded with the amount appropriated for this program, less those funds necessary to reimburse
42 eligible students pursuant to subsection 8 of this section.

43 8. The department of higher education shall, by rule, establish a procedure for the
44 reimbursement of the cost of tuition, books and fees to any public community college or vocational
45 or technical school or within the limits established in subsection 10 of this section for any two-year
46 private vocational or technical school for any student:

47 (1) Who has attended a high school in the state for at least three years prior to graduation
48 that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section and who has graduated from such a
49 school; except that, students who are active duty military dependents, and students who are

1 dependants of retired military who relocate to Missouri within one year of the date of the parent's
2 retirement from active duty, who, in the school year immediately preceding graduation, meet all
3 other requirements of this subsection and are attending a school that meets the requirements of
4 subsection 2 of this section shall be exempt from the three-year attendance requirement of this
5 subdivision; and

6 (2) Who has made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal sources of funding
7 that could be applied to the reimbursement described in this subsection; and

8 (3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high school as determined by rule of
9 the department of higher education, and other requirements for the reimbursement authorized by this
10 subsection as determined by rule and regulation of the department; and

11 (4) Who is a citizen [~~or permanent resident~~] of the United States.

12 9. The commissioner of education shall develop a procedure for evaluating the effectiveness
13 of the program described in this section. Such evaluation shall be conducted annually with the
14 results of the evaluation provided to the governor, speaker of the house, and president pro tempore
15 of the senate.

16 10. For a two-year private vocational or technical school to obtain reimbursements under
17 subsection 8 of this section, the following requirements shall be satisfied:

18 (1) Such two-year private vocational or technical school shall be a member of the North
19 Central Association and be accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as of July 1, 2008, and
20 maintain such accreditation;

21 (2) Such two-year private vocational or technical school shall be designated as a 501(c)(3)
22 nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

23 (3) No two-year private vocational or technical school shall receive tuition reimbursements
24 in excess of the tuition rate charged by a public community college for course work offered by the
25 private vocational or technical school within the service area of such college; and

26 (4) The reimbursements provided to any two-year private vocational or technical school
27 shall not violate the provisions of Article IX, Section 8, or Article I, Section 7, of the Missouri
28 Constitution or the first amendment of the United States Constitution."; and
29

30 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
31 accordingly.